

should be interpreted so as to delay the immediate implementation of solutions to improve navigation on the Atchafalaya River, Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black project as provided under existing authorities and directives.

Section 433, Lake Pontchartrain Seawall: The Corps should take into account the cost savings and benefits to the entire Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection and Flood Control project when determining justification for modifications and rehabilitation to the seawall. Prior cost savings and benefits provided by the seawall should be taken into account when determining whether structural modifications and rehabilitation of the seawall are justified.

Section 530, Urbanized Peak Flood Management, New Jersey: Activities authorized by this section should be carried out in coordination with qualified academic institutions, such as the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). Conferees are also aware that NJIT has expressed interest in having its campus serve as the location for such research efforts.

Section 532, Upper Mohawk River Basin, New York: This important project has the potential to provide not just flood control and wildlife habitat (through wetlands restoration) but also water quality improvements and other environmental benefits.

Title VI, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan: First, the provision recognizes the importance of the modified water deliveries project authorized by the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 by presuming that this project is completed.

While the primary purpose of the modified water deliveries project is to restore natural flows to the Everglades, it contains a number of provisions to provide critical flood control and property rights protections to private landowners potentially impacted by the projects.

Nothing in WRDA 2000 should be interpreted to diminish statutory protections to landowners in section 104 of Public Law 101-229.

Second, section 601(h)(3)(C)(ii) addresses the limitation on the applicability of programmatic regulations. Nothing in this paragraph affects the public's ability to participate and comment on the development of project implementation reports, project cooperation agreements, operation manuals, and any other documents relating to the development, implementation, and management of individual features of the Everglades restoration plan. In addition, nothing in this provision expands any agency's authority.

The Corps should undertake a significant public education and outreach effort to describe the Everglades project. I encourage the Corps to work closely with nonfederal institutions that have the respect of the community. I understand one such institution is the Museum of Discovery and Science in Fort Lauderdale, which has entered into an agreement with the south Florida ecosystem restoration task force to provide public education and outreach in conjunction with the restoration effort. As my colleague Representative CLAY SHAW mentioned during consideration of the house bill, the Museum of Discovery and Science is situated to carry out these functions through a planned facility and exhibition. I urge the Corps to work closely with the museum and to provide financial and technical assistance to ensure visitors to south Florida have a fair and balanced understanding of the comprehensive Everglades restoration plan.

Oklahoma-Tribal Commission: The managers find that the economic trends in southeastern Oklahoma related to unemployment and per capita income are not conducive to local economic development, and efforts to improve the management of water in the region would have a positive influence on the local economy, help reverse these trends, and improve the lives of local residents. The managers believe that State of Oklahoma, the Choctaw Nation, Oklahoma, and the Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma, should establish a State-Tribal Commission composed equally of representatives of such nations and residents of the water basins within the boundaries of such nations for the purpose of administering and distributing from the sale of water any benefits and net revenues to the tribes and local entities within the respective basins; any sale of water to entities outside the basins should be consistent with the procedures and requirements established by the commission; and if requested, the secretary should provide assistance, as appropriate, to facilitate the efforts of the commission. Such a commission focusing on the Kiamichi River Basin and other basins within the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations would allow all entities (State of Oklahoma, Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, and residents of local basin(s)) to work cooperatively to see that the benefits and revenues being generated from the sale/use of water to entities outside the respective basins are distributed in an agreeable manner.

Mr. Speaker, many staff worked for many days and months on this landmark and legislation. At the risk of omitting some, I'd like to thank a few by name: Jack Schenendorf, Mike Strachn, Roger Nober, John Anderson, Donna Campbell, Corry Marshall, Sara Gray, Susan Bodine, Carrie Jelsma, Ben Grumbles, Ken Kopocis, Art Chan, and Pam Keller of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; Tom Gibson, Stephanie Daigle, Chelsea Henderson Maxwell, Ann Loomis, Jo-Ellen Darcy, Peter Washburn, Catherine Cyr, and C.K. Lee of the Senate; and Larry Prather, Gary Campbell, Milton Rider, and Bill Schmitz of the Corps of Engineers.

SECTION 1422 OF H.R. 4868

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4868, as amended by H. Res. 644 which passed the House and Senate, contains a provision in section 1422 of the bill relating to petroleum and petroleum derivatives. These remarks explain the need for that provision.

In 1990 Congress simplified duty drawback for the petroleum industry by creating a separate section, 1313(p), under the drawback laws. For purposes of duty drawback, a finished petroleum derivative or a qualified article is commercially interchangeable under Subsection 1313(p) of the Tariff Act of 1930 based on Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) headings or subheadings listed within that subsection. As a result, petroleum derivatives are considered to be of the same kind and quality and commercially interchangeable by virtue of matching the HTS classification codes for imports and exports.

In some instances, one or more petroleum derivatives, or products, are listed under a single HTS classification, making those derivatives commercially interchangeable under 1313(p). This long-standing practice is threatened by future modifications of the HTS that would split several products out from under a single HTS classification by creating new and separate HTS classifications, or categories, for those products. Such a "split" would inadvertently disallow drawback under Subsection 1313(p) for certain qualified articles that are now considered commercially interchangeable.

Section 1422 of H.R. 4868 addresses the "split" issue by ensuring that certain qualified articles remain commercially interchangeable as modifications to the HTS are made in which petroleum derivatives are split from single into separate HTS classifications or subheadings. Specifically, Section 1422 provides that any products that are currently commercially interchangeable will remain so based on those products' HTS subheading or classification as in effect on January 1, 2000. Thus, the language of Section 1422 would ensure that products or articles that are currently commercially interchangeable shall continue to be commercially interchangeable, irrespective of whether the HTS is modified and those same articles are split and listed under separate HTS subheadings. This section does not affect any future tariff simplification that would combine certain articles or products under a single eight-digit HTS subheading and thus make those products commercially interchangeable under 1313(p).

HONORING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Russian American Cultural Society of Cleveland. This wonderful organization has been unifying the Russian population of Cleveland and celebrating the spirit of community since 1950.

The history of Cleveland's extraordinary Russian population begins in the post World War II era. The first wave of immigrants left Russia after the civil war in the early 1920's and settled in France and Yugoslavia. Following World War II, many of these Russian immigrants left war-torn Europe and headed for the United States. A second wave of immigration came when a number of displaced Russian citizens chose to make a new start in the U.S. rather than return to the Soviet Union for repatriation. Of the thousands of Russian citizens who came to America in the 1940's, many chose Cleveland, Ohio as the city where they would begin their new lives.

Once settled in Cleveland, these Russian immigrants joined together in an admirable effort to preserve their valued Russian tradition, language, culture, and Orthodoxy. They took their first bold steps toward carrying on their Russian heritage in 1950 with the founding of the Russian American Cultural Society of Cleveland and the St. Sergius of Radonesh Russian Orthodox Church.